

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9891

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

CINCPAC

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: FPR, UR, US, VN, VS

SUBJECT: SOVIETS HAIL "LIBERTATION" VICTORY IN SOUTH VIETNAM

REF: MOSCOW 6092

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

USIA FOR IBS, IEE, IPS

1. SUMMARY: FOLLOWING THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP MESSAGE CONGRATULATING THE PRG IN ITS VICTORY IN SOUTH VIETNAM (REFTEL) SOVIET MEDIA HAVE WEIGHED IN WITH COMMENTARIES HAILING THE OUTCOME, UNDERLINING SOVIET SUPPORT, CASTIGATING THE FORMER SAIGON REGIME AND DESCRIBING THE NORMALIZATION OF LIFE UNDER THE PRG. THE U.S. HAS BEEN TREATED WITH RELATIVE RESTRAINT. END SUMMARY.

2. SOVIET MEDIA HAVE NOW SET OUT A CONSISTENT LINE IN COMMENTING ON THE DENOUEMENT IN SOUTH VIETNAM. COMMENTARIES IN PRAVDA
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(MAY 3), IZVESTIYA (MAY 4) AND PRAVDA'S INTERNATIONAL WEEK (MAY 4)

HAILED THE VICTORY OF THE "LIBERATION" FORCES OVER "DOMESTIC REACTION" AND "FOREIGN IMPERIALISM". THE COMMENTARIES UNDERLINED PAST AND PRESENT SOVIET SUPPORT FOR THE "LIBERATORS," NOTED THE MAY DAY CELEBRATION IN SAIGON, AND LOOKED AHEAD TO THE NORMALIZATION OF LIFE IN SOUTH VIETNAM UNDER PRG CONTROL.

3. THE COMMENTARIES ALL BLASTED THE FORMER SAIGON REGIME FOR ALLEGEDLY VIOLATING THE PARIS AGREEMENT FROM THE BEGINNING, SEEKING TO ENCROACH ON THE "LIBERATED" AREAS AND HOLDING 200,000 POLITICAL PRISONERS. THE COMMENTARIES MENTIONED "BIG MINH'S" TEMPORARY TAKEOVER, BUT DID NOT DECOUNCE HIM.

4. APART FROM THE REFERENCES TO "IMPERIALIST INTERVENTION," THE U.S. WAS TREATED WITH RELATIVE RESTRAINT IN THESE ITEMS. IZVESTIYA (MAY 4) QUOTED FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES ON THE ALLEGED REALIZATION BY THE AMERICAN PUBLIC AND CONGRESS THAT U.S. INTERVENTION WAS A MISTAKE FROM THE BEGINNING. PRAVDA (MAY 4) MISQUOTED SECRETARY KISSINGER AS SAYING THAT THE WAR HAD FAILED TO MEET THE OBJECTIVE OF "THOSE WHO STARTED IT" (VICE HIS REAL WORDS "THOSE WHO STARTED THE ORIGINAL INVOLVEMENT"), THEREBY IMPLYING SECRETARY'S ADMISSION THAT U.S. STARTED VIETNAM WAR. BUT IT WENT ON TO CITE THE SECRETARY'S REMARKS ON THE NEED TO GO FORWARD WITH CONCRETE STEPS IN RELATIONS WITH MOSCOW, ESPECIALLY ON ARMS LIMITATIONS.

5. IN SUM, THE SOVIETS HAVE INDICATED--NOT SURPRISINGLY-- THAT THEY ARE HIGHLY PLEASED WITH THE OUTCOME IN SOUTH VIETNAM, THAT THEY HOPE TO LIMIT THE DAMAGE IN TERMS OF RELATIONS WITH THE U.S., AND THAT THEY ARE LOOKING AHEAD TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF STRONG TIES TO THE SUCCESSOR REGIME IN SAIGON.
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